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Cartoon Production Cells in the Production of Cartoons

Production cells, or simply 'cels', are the transparent sheets on which traditional cartoons were created. Each cel represents a single frame in an animation and is hand-painted by artists. These cels are then placed over static backgrounds and photographed sequentially to give the illusion of movement in the final cartoon. This method was a standard in the animation industry before the advent of computer-generated imagery (CGI). Collectors often seek out these original cels, as they are unique pieces of art that directly contributed to the cartoons we know and love. The value of these cels can vary greatly, influenced by factors such as the popularity of the cartoon, the characters featured, and the specific scene depicted. With the shift to digital animation, the production of new cels has ceased, making existing ones even more valuable. For those interested in animation history or looking to own a piece of their favorite cartoon, production cels offer a tangible connection to the animated classics.